



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMBINATION OF METH AND GUNS PUTS DENTON COUNTY MAN IN PRISON FOR LIFE

Sherman, Texas -- A 35 year-old Denton County man will spend the rest of his life in federal prison for possessing with intent to distribute 435 grams of methamphetamine. **Ray Reginaldo Valdez** was sentenced to life in prison by U.S. District Judge Richard A. Schell on March 31, 2005.

According to evidence presented in court, law enforcement authorities searched Valdez' residence in Denton County on June 24, 2004, after receiving information that he had been distributing methamphetamine from the residence. During the search, Lewisville Police officers revealed 435 grams of methamphetamine, 10.935 grams of marijuana, 2.2 grams of cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

Valdez was indicted by a federal grand jury on August 6, 2004, and proceeded to trial on November 30. The next day, Valdez was found guilty of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and felon in possession of a weapon.

This case is part of the Methbusters and Project Safe Neighborhoods initiatives. Methbusters is an aggressive program implemented in the Eastern District of Texas to address the growing problem of methamphetamine trafficking in East Texas. The United States Attorney's Office has joined with law enforcement to aggressively pursue and prosecute those involved with manufacturing and distributing the methamphetamine drug or the chemicals used in its production and those who possess guns illegally.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a comprehensive strategic approach to reducing gun violence in America by promoting partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. This Department of Justice national initiative has been widely successful in implementing lengthy prison sentences for gun possession by convicted felons and during crimes of violence.

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, was pleased with the sentence, "This lengthy sentence sends a powerful message. Crimes involving methamphetamine or the illegal possession of guns will continue to be severely punished in this district."

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This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Lewisville Police Department. Assistant United States Attorneys Ernest Gonzalez and Joe Monsivais prosecuted the case.

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